



September 4, 2020

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The National Border Patrol Council endorses the “Integrating New Technologies to Empower Law (INTEL) Enforcement at Our Borders Act.” The mission of the Border Patrol is vital to ensure the security and wellbeing of the United States of America. Though our mission is critical it is not without its challenges. The southern border alone is nearly 2,000 miles much of which is rugged and hostile terrain, staffing shortages and manpower issues have stretched our Border Patrol agents thin, and gaps in technological capabilities limit the security potential of our borders.

Proper implementation of emerging technology to the day-to-day operations of the Border Patrol has the potential of being a force multiplier for our agents in the field. Due to the manpower issues the Border Patrol is currently dealing with, force multipliers are an unfortunate necessity.

The “Integrating New Technologies to Empower Law (INTEL) Enforcement at Our Borders Act” will require DHS to produce a comprehensive strategy for: the assessment of current technology use on the borders; the assessment of gaps in situational awareness on the northern and southern border; identification of new technology needed to fill those gaps; replacing legacy programs with new and emerging technologies; the evaluation of new technology programs; and the analysis of current DHS procurement authorities.

This bill is the first step to ensuring that the Border Patrol has the most comprehensive, up to date, and effective force multiplying technology programs on the northern and southern borders. New and emerging technology program implementation is vital to the mission of the Border Patrol and the National Border Patrol Council is proud to endorse this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Hector Garza

Vice President, National Border Patrol Council